

House Bill 526

By: Representatives Jones of the 25<sup>th</sup> and Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 31 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the Charter Schools Act of 1998, so as to provide for training for governing board  
3 members of nonprofit organizations of charter schools; to provide for related matters; to  
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 31 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
8 Charter Schools Act of 1998, is amended by revising Code Section 20-2-2072, relating to  
9 training for governing board members, as follows:

10 "20-2-2072.

11 The members of the governing board of the nonprofit organization of each charter school  
12 shall participate in initial training for boards of newly approved charter schools and annual  
13 training thereafter, ~~conducted or approved by the state board; provided, however, that such~~  
14 annual requirements shall not exceed 12 hours of training. Such required training may be  
15 delivered wholly or in part in person or through virtual means. The state board shall  
16 ~~provide for or~~ approve such initial and annual training. The Department of Education may  
17 provide training required by this Code section but shall not serve as the exclusive provider  
18 of such training. For charter schools that are college and career academies, as defined in  
19 subsection (b) of Code Section 20-4-37, the state board shall provide ~~for~~ or approve such  
20 training in conjunction with the Technical College System of Georgia. The training shall  
21 include, but not be limited to, best practices on school governance, the constitutional and  
22 statutory requirements relating to public records and meetings, and the requirements of  
23 applicable statutes and rules and regulations. The training shall also include two to three  
24 hours annually regarding sound fiscal management and monitoring the implementation of  
25 the budget in accordance with state laws and regulations which ~~includes~~ may be offered in  
26 conjunction with other required training topics and shall include the following elements:

27 (1) Board developed policies to ensure sound fiscal management, including but not  
28 limited to: balanced budget requirements, spending level authorizations and permissions,  
29 deficit spending restrictions, establishment of special funds, and reserve maintenance  
30 requirements;

31 (2) Holding the principal, or its equivalent, accountable for the implementation of the  
32 budget in a manner consistent with the school's strategic plan;

33 (3) Establishing through policy, the level of spending beyond the budget for which the  
34 school leader must seek board approval;

35 (4) Monitoring the school's audits, monthly financial reports, and additional financial  
36 reports needed to make informed decisions and to ensure execution of the budget in a  
37 manner consistent with the strategic plan and strategic goals of the school;

38 (5) Reviewing and addressing annually audited financial records and audit findings, with  
39 a goal of proactively preventing audit exceptions;

40 (6) Addressing fiscal matters in a manner consistent with state law, sound business  
41 practice, and ethical principles regarding conflicts of interest; and

42 (7) Operating in a manner such that the board's financial decisions and actions do not  
43 provide unfair financial or other opportunistic advantages to any member of the  
44 governance board, their family members, associates, or individual constituents."

45

**SECTION 2.**

46 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.